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If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Indiana Election Division, at:

Office of the Secretary of State  
Indiana Election Division  
302 W. Washington Street  
Room E-204  
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2767  
(317) 232-3939  
(800) 622-4941  
[www.state.in.us/sos/elections](http://www.state.in.us/sos/elections)

If the Indiana Election Division is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB  
Washington, D.C. 20530  
(202) 307-2767 (voice)  
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)  
(202) 307-3961 (fax)  
[www.usdoj.gov/crt](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt)

*This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.*

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



# Restoring Your Right to Vote



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The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

### **What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?**

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

### **Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Indiana?**

If you are a resident of Indiana, you cannot vote while you are incarcerated. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Indiana, you may be able to vote an absentee ballot for your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

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### **I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?**

In Indiana, the right to vote is automatically restored upon lawful release from incarceration. In order to vote, you simply must register.

### **What if my conviction was for a federal crime?**

Indiana applies the same rules whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

### **What if I was convicted in another state?**

The same rules apply for Indiana voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

### **What happens if I move to another state?**

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

### **What are Indiana's other voter registration requirements?**

To vote in Indiana, you must be a U.S. citizen; have lived in your Indiana precinct for at least 30 days before the next election, and be at least 18 years old on the day of the next general or municipal election.

### **When do I need to register to vote?**

Registration is available year-round in Indiana. However, in order to vote in a primary or general election, you must be registered at least 29 days before that election. If you register by mail, your mail-in voter registration application must be postmarked at least 29 days prior to that election.

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### **Where do I go to register?**

Registration is available at many places in Indiana, including:

- Bureau of Motor Vehicles (license branch)
- Public Libraries
- Township Trustee offices
- City and Town Clerks' offices, and
- Your county voter registration office